

An Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 50 crore had already been released to the State in two instalments of Rs. 25 crore each on 10th June and 9th December, 2004. The Prime Minister's Office accordingly constituted a Task Force consisting of experts, officials of Government of India and officials of the State Government to identify works to be undertaken for this purpose. The Task Force is headed by the Joint Secretary (NDM) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Task Force in its first meeting held at Dehradun, Uttarkashi, on 28th February, 2004 recommended Rs. 282.04 crores for various projects/works spread over a period of 5 years for stabilization of Varunavat Parvat at Uttarkashi.

Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended in April, 2006 Rs. 50 crore for release to the Government of Uttaranchal for Stabilisation of Varunavat Parvat in Uttaranchal as approved by the Task Force during 2006-07.

The ACA of Rs. 50.00 crores would be released shortly.

Receipt of AIR data by IT Department

2185. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax Department has received Annual Information Return (AIR) in respect of financial year, 2005-06 from Registrar or sub-Registrar, banking companies, financial institutions, mutual funds, etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Income Tax Department has compared the AIR data with those filed in tax return by individuals, companies, etc. and the details of discrepancies noticed therein; and

(c) the action taken to check tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Up to 10.11.2006, the Income Tax Department has received 2259 AIRs for financial year 2005-06 which contain details of 16,84,709 transactions involving Rs. 16,39,024 crores.

(b) Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions to its field formation for scrutinizing the returns of income for assessment year 2005-06 (corresponding to financial year 2004-05) on the basis of AIRs for financial year 2004-05.

(c) The drive against tax evasion is a continuous process. For this purpose, the Income Tax Department employs various methods like scrutinising returns of income, conducting searches and surveys, collecting information through AIRs etc.

World Bank aid to Maharashtra

2186. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that World Bank will lend upto \$5 billion to Maharashtra for modernizing and developing infrastructure in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region besides technical expertise;

(b) if so, whether concerned State Government has prepared any firm proposals therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof and areas/district expected to be benefited;

(d) whether in the process the Mumbai roads will be made free from water-logging for days together during rainy seasons and the conditions of roads will improve; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) No such proposal from Government of Maharashtra requesting for financial assistance upto \$ 5 billion from World Bank has been received. However, upon a request of Maharashtra Government, which was recommended by Government of India, the World Bank is assisting the State Government in developing a comprehensive strategy and plan for modernizing and developing infrastructure in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Amount released to Madhya Pradesh

†2187. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 505.47 crores were to be released to MP from 2000-01 to 2004-05 for Panchayati Raj Institutions as per recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.